

# QUOTE

"Arbiter of sustainable tourism and conservation initiatives for 40 years, Inkaterra, which runs its own NGO, provides guests with remarkable experiences in Peru"



A full-page photograph of an orang-utan hanging from a tree branch in a lush green forest. The orang-utan is the central focus, with its long, reddish-brown fur and thoughtful expression. It is holding onto a branch with its long fingers. The background is a dense canopy of green leaves, creating a vibrant and natural setting.

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## TRAVEL ISSUE

### Wild & wonderful

Tea with a maharaja  
in Rajasthan

An edible golf course  
in the Caribbean

Exploring Jersey's  
dark secrets

Snake-hunting  
in rural Italy

'We gazed at  
one another like  
old friends'

**Close encounters with  
orang-utans**



was felled or moved. One morning we had breakfast with Lake and his team at what is known as the foraging site, at a pretty farm table set out beneath the mango trees. (There are 103 different types of mango here.) Bushman, a local Rasta with an enormous quantity of dreadlocks and a kind smile, shinned up the trees in lightning time and chucked mangoes down for us. 'Camera,' he kept saying obligingly, hanging upside down from his tree.

We had freshly baked croissants with jam made from fruits grown in the fertile land mere yards away – papaya, manciport, tzimbalo, sour orange – and star-fruit juice drunk from a Kilner jar.

And I am ashamed to say that later, back at the Kitchen, I ate an auxiliary breakfast: the best French toast I have ever had, made with coconut milk, rum, and honey from Nevis.

There is no immediately local beach here; it's an entirely different kind of Caribbean experience. But 10 minutes' drive away is Belle Mont's coastal outpost: Arthur's, in Dieppe Bay, is a clapboard 'sea-to-table restaurant', on a pointy finger of land overlooking the surf. It is named after Arthur Leaman (former decorating



Pascal, one of the chefs at the Kitchen, prepares to cook Sunday brunch

#### THE BELLE MONT'S WINE LIST

**By the curator of the farm's drinks programme, Isabelle Legeron, Master of Wine**

Over half our wine list eschews the sorts of big brands you might expect to see at a world-class resort. Instead, we have opted for pure, complex bottles that are beautifully farmed and made with non-invasive techniques. The result is a cellar featuring some of the world's best cult live (environmentally friendly) wines, which was especially exciting to put together, not least since it is a first for the Caribbean. While we do cater for every palate, the dominant features of Belle Mont Farm are its tropical climate and the flavours of the local ingredients that are the focus of Christophe Letard's kitchen. His sensitive approach to Kittitian produce calls for delicate, elegant wines. Here are a few picks from our cellar.

**David Léclapart, L'Amateur**  
Champagne, France, 2009

**Domaine Milan, Le Grand Blanc**  
Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, France, 2012

**Gut Oggau, Winifred, Neusiedler See**  
Burgenland, Austria, 2013

**Cousin-Leduc, Le Grolle, Anjou**  
Loire, France, 2012

And, finally, home brew! Running in parallel to our wine offering is an experimental drinks programme. This work in progress will eventually see us crafting an array of local, seasonal drinks using the plants we grow on the farm. Keep an eye out for our fermented sugar-cane juice, or our port-style Java plum drink, which is delicious on ice with a twist of lemon zest.



editor of *House & Garden*), who opened the Golden Lemon, the first gay resort in the Caribbean, in 1963; the remains of it sit just behind Arthur's, and have been acquired as part of Kittitian Hill's portfolio.

It is a windy and gorgeous location: this is where the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea meet, and it feels oddly momentous. Over freshly caught marlin supplemented with vegetables and salads from the farm, Kempadoo expands on his vision. He grew up in Jamaica, Trinidad, Guyana and Barbados, but spent his formative years in London. He was home-schooled and decided against going to university; his parents were educationalists, and his father was a freelance consultant for the UN among other things. He is genuinely trying to address what he sees as the corrosive nature of Caribbean tourism, which creates an unsustainable industry with no connection to the local culture. 'I'm eternally optimistic and I believe in a very broad scheme of things – that businesses can play an active role in shaping the future of our world but they just have to approach things in a very different way. Most businesses have very short-term, bottom-line thinking.

'The big story of what Kittitian Hill really is will probably be conveyed by small stories; it's much better for people to discover it through a series of encounters, rather than me giving a lecture. I've talked enough to last me for the rest of my life.'

Kempadoo has other, even more ambitious, dreams. He long ago created a blueprint for the island to run on entirely sustainable lines: renewable energy, hybrid cars, sustainable food, everything recycled. Because it's a small society that is not answerable in any way to large oil companies, it is, he believes, a practical plan. He has submitted his ideas to the government, more than once.

So far he has not heard back. Wise up, St Kitts. Bailey Robinson (01488-689700; email [travel@baileyrobinson.com](mailto:travel@baileyrobinson.com)) offers seven nights at Belle Mont Farm from £3,270pp all-inclusive, with flights and transfers. For more information on St Kitts, visit [stkittstourism.kn](http://stkittstourism.kn). British Airways ([ba.com](http://ba.com)) flies direct from Gatwick, on Saturdays and Wednesdays

#### MORE PIONEERING PROJECTS

##### Ceylon Tea Trails, Sri Lanka

The family behind one of the world's largest independent tea companies is also Sri Lanka's biggest philanthropic dynasty, funding community and conservation projects. So, unsurprisingly, they have ventured into tourism in a thoughtful way. Ceylon Tea Trails has five colonial-era planter's bungalows and a cottage in the hill country, between which guests are encouraged to cycle or hike. Ten per cent of profits from stays goes into the family's MJF Charitable Foundation, which helps fund projects assisting disadvantaged communities and a new education centre, where guests can teach English. *Amperсанд Travel* (020-7819 9770; [amperсандtravel.com](http://amperсандtravel.com))

##### Song Saa, Cambodia

This private-island resort in the remote, impoverished Koh Rong archipelago is blazing a trail for sustainability in the region. Employing locals to build villas from recycled materials and run the resort, it has also set up the Song Saa Foundation, funded by guest (and other) donations to develop community projects. Song Saa offers small-group philanthropic tours, where guests can participate in everything from coral-reef surveys to 'Boat of Hope' medical-outreach missions. *Jacada Travel* (020-3131 7407; [jacadatravel.com](http://jacadatravel.com))



##### Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba, Peru

Arbiter of sustainable tourism and conservation initiatives for 40 years, Inkaterra, which runs its own NGO, provides guests with remarkable experiences in Peru. It does this while working with local communities to protect and showcase the culture and nature of the country. The new Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba in Cusco's Sacred Valley is its fifth accommodation offering, and the first to run an eco farm. *Cox & Kings* (020-3642 0861; [coxandkings.co.uk](http://coxandkings.co.uk))

##### Village Ways, Ethiopia

A social enterprise focused on developing responsible tourism in partnership with poorer rural communities around the world, Village Ways is next month launching a holiday in Ethiopia's Simien Mountains. Travellers visit three villages, staying in simple, locally run guest houses and learning how the people farm and make things, before hiking on to the next hamlet. *Village Ways* (01223-750049; [villageways.com](http://villageways.com))

##### AnaYela, Marrakesh

It was only as restoration began that the owner of this 300-year-old riad in the heart of the medina, Andrea Kolb, truly 'got' the importance and skill of local craftsmanship. She and her husband launched it as a five-room hotel in 2008, before setting up a design label to showcase local artisans and a foundation supporting projects in their villages – from schools where seamstresses pass down their skills to the building of water wells and eye clinics. *Design Hotels* ([designhotels.com](http://designhotels.com)). **Francesca Syz**